

nigris. Long. $8'' 2'''$; rostr. a fr. $8\frac{1}{2}'''$; al. vix $4\frac{1}{2}''$; caud. $3''$; tars. $13\frac{1}{2}'''$.

The ornithological department of the *Lamprotornithinæ* being rather familiar to me, I at first sight referred this bird to the *L. sycobius*, Peters; but after a more careful comparison I have little doubt that it will prove new. It belongs to the third division of the genus, as arranged in my monograph, and is nearly allied to *Lamprocolius phænicopterus*, *L. bispecularis* (which I have never seen), and *L. sycobius*.

XVIII.—*A Fourth additional List of Birds received from Natal.*

By JOHN HENRY GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

(Plates IV. & V.)

THE birds contained in the following list have been collected by Mr. Thomas Ayres, to whose obliging assiduity I am also indebted for the observations accompanying them. In a few instances I have appended some notes of my own, to which my initials are attached. The additional species are numbered consecutively to those contained in my former papers on this subject ('Ibis,' 1859, p. 234, 1860, p. 203, 1861, p. 128, and pp. 25-39 of the present volume).

177. *SPIZAËTUS AYRESII*, sp. nov. (Plate IV.) Ayres's Hawk-Eagle.

Male. Iris light yellow; base of bill ash-colour, tip black; cere and feet greenish yellow.

This bird was shot near the coast in a very dense bush; it is extremely rare here. I know nothing of its habits; the stomach was perfectly empty.

[This very handsome *Spizaëtus* appears to me to belong to a species different from any of the four African *Spizaëti* which have hitherto been described, and I have much pleasure in proposing for it the specific name of *ayresii*, in recognition of the zealous cooperation which I have received in studying the ornithology of Natal from my esteemed correspondent Mr. Thomas Ayres, by whom the present specimen, which is the only one I have seen of this species, was procured.]

Of the African *Spizaëti* already known to science, three species have been so frequently described, and differ so widely from the bird now under our consideration, that it is hardly needful to allude further to them here. These species are (1) *Spizaëtus bellicosus* (Daud.), which by its length of wing approaches very closely to the genus *Aquila*; (2) *Spizaëtus coronatus* (Linn.), which is the largest of the typical *Spizaëti*; and (3) *Spizaëtus occipitalis* (Daud.), which forms the type of Dr. Kaup's genus *Lophaëtus*. The fourth and rarest of the hitherto known African *Spizaëti* is that described and figured by the Baron J. von Müller in his 'Description de Nouveaux Oiseaux d'Afrique,' pl. 1, under the title of *Spizaëtus zonurus*, which had been previously described by the same author in the 'Naumannia' for 1851, p. 27.

It may be well also to mention that the name of *Spizaëtus spilogaster* has been given by M. le Vicomte Dubus to an African *Spizaëtus*, of which I believe neither figure nor description has yet been published, but which is probably identical with *Spizaëtus zonurus* of v. Müller, as it is stated by Prince C. L. Bonaparte, in the 'Revue de Zoologie' for 1850, p. 487, to be destitute of a crest, as is also the case in *Spizaëtus zonurus*. At any rate, the absence of a crest in *Spizaëtus spilogaster* marks that bird as being distinct from *Spizaëtus ayresii*, in which the occipital crest is a well-marked feature.

The other points of difference between *Spizaëtus zonurus* and *Spizaëtus ayresii* will appear by the following description and accompanying plate of the latter, and especially by the subjoined comparison of the dimensions of the two species.

The *Spizaëtus ayresii* may be described as follows:—

Above, general colour nearly uniform chocolate-brown, with the extremities of the feathers paler; head-feathers margined with yellowish rufous, especially on the sides; occipital crest rather broad (1·5 inch at the base), and about 1·75 in. in length, nearly black, slightly paler at the termination; front adjoining the cere yellowish white; wing-coverts and secondaries like the back; bend of the wing whitish; primaries uniform purplish black, indistinctly barred with whitish on the concealed lower parts of the inner webs, as is also the case with the secondaries, though less distinctly; tail-feathers above greyish, with seven

cross-bands of brownish black, the terminal band broader and margined with whitish.

Below, ochraceous white, purer on the lower belly and crissum; breast, flanks, and under wing-coverts marked with elongated shaft-spots of chocolate-brown, which are widest on the flank and under wing-coverts; the crissum marked with rounded shaft-spots rather paler in colour, and in many cases repeated on the same feather; thighs nearly uniform ochraceous; axillaries like the breast, rather more rufous in colour, and distinctly marked with narrow elongated shaft-spots; under surface of primaries at the base whitish, varied with grey on the inner webs; under surface of tail greyish-white barred, in correspondence with the upper surface.

The measurements of *Spizaëtus ayresii*, in inches and tenths, are as follows, the corresponding dimensions of two examples of *Spizaëtus zonurus* being given for comparison.

	Long. tota.	Alæ.	Caudæ.	Rostr. a rictu.	Tarsi.	Dig. med. cum ungue.	Dig. ext. cum ungue.	Dig. int. cum ungue.	Dig. post. cum ungue.
Spiz. ayresii (♂)	19·0	16·0	9·0	1·4	2·7	3·2	2·4	2·6	3·0
—— zonurus* (♂) (a)	17·0	13·0	7·0						
—— ——— (♀) (b)	22·0	16·0	10·0		4·0	3·0	2·0	2·4	2·4

—J. H. G.]

178. MOTACILLA LONGICAUDA (Rüpp.). Long-tailed Wagtail.

Male and female. Iris brown; bill black; tarsi and feet dark ash-colour.

These Wagtails are particularly graceful in their movements. They frequent rocky streams, and go so close to the rushing water that one expects to see them washed away every instant. They appear to glide rather than to walk or run over the stones in search of insects, and are not at all afraid of wetting their feet.

Soft small dragon-flies are favourite food with them. They are generally seen in pairs, and warble very prettily, though not loudly.

* [Specimen (a) of *Spizaëtus zonurus* is from Galam, and is now in the Derby Museum at Liverpool. Specimen (b) is in the South-African Museum at Cape Town, near which city it was procured.—J. H. G.]

179. *BESSONORNIS VOCIFERANS* (Swains.). South-African Robin.

Female. Iris very dark brown; bill black; tarsi and feet light pinkish brown.

The food of these birds consists of berries, small fruits, and insects. In their movements and attitudes they much resemble the English Redbreast, and they are particularly fond of chasing one another about. They frequent the dense bush.

[I believe that the bird figured by Sir A. Smith in his 'Zoology of South Africa,' Aves, pl. 60, under the name of *Cossypha natalensis*, is an immature specimen of the present species.—J. H. G.]

180. *PINDALUS RUFICAPILLUS*, Hartlaub, MS. Yellow-throated Flycatcher. (Plate V.)

Pegonocichla ruficapilla, Sund. Kongl. Vet. Akad. Förh. 1850, p. 105. *Culicipeta ruficapilla*, Grill, Zool. Antekn. p. 27.

Female. Iris very dark brown; upper mandible yellow; tarsi and feet pale, tinged with green.

Rare in this locality: frequents the bush and thick creepers. When in search of food is exceedingly active, flitting and hopping from twig to twig with the greatest celerity, and catching the small beetles, gnats, and flies, of which its food consists.

[I am indebted to the kind assistance of Dr. Hartlaub for the identification of this curious little bird. As I believe it has not hitherto been figured, the accompanying Plate, in which it is represented of the natural size, may prove interesting to such ornithologists as are not already acquainted with this scarce species.—J. H. G.]

181. *CORVUS CAPENSIS*, Licht. South-African Rook.

Female. Iris very dark brown; bill black; tarsi and feet black.

These birds are very numerous inland, doing considerable damage to the crops of maize when nearly ripe. On the coast districts, however, they are only occasional visitants. Their note is harsh and guttural. Their flight is swift, the beat of their wings being much more rapid than that of the White-necked Raven (*Corvus cafer*).

182. *TURTUR ERYTHROPHRYS*, Swains. Levallant's Dove.

Male. Iris dark blackish brown, with a narrow yellow ring in

the centre ; bare skin under the eye dark pink ; bill black ; tarsi and feet dark pink.

These Doves are occasionally very plentiful in particular localities, arriving or assembling in considerable flights. Their food consists principally of the berries of trees ; but they are also fond of alighting on roadways and cultivated ground, where they run about picking up seeds, &c.

183. *EUPODOTIS MELANOGASTER* (Rüpp.). Coran Bustard.

Male. Iris light brown, darker towards the pupil ; bill, upper mandible brown, under mandible pale ; thighs, tarsi, and feet pale yellow.

These beautiful birds are the most delicious-eating of any of the Bustards here ; during the winter months they become extremely fat. I believe they are far more plentiful inland than on the coast. They are found sometimes singly, at other times in companies. They are tamer, and in consequence much more easily shot, than the larger kinds : if they think themselves not observed, they will almost invariably crouch on the ground, when the sportsman may get within twenty yards of them before they rise. Their flight is heavy, but they are able to sustain it for a considerable distance.

184. *FULICA CRISTATA* (Gmel.). Purple-knobbed Coot.

Male. Iris brownish red ; bill whitish ash-colour ; frontal shield white, terminating in two purplish chocolate-brown knobs ; tarsi and feet ash-colour.

The bill of the immature bird is darker than that of the adult, and the knobs on the crown are not so large.

These Coots inhabit the lagoons, and are generally in companies. When disturbed, instead of attempting to hide, they immediately take wing and fly a considerable distance round and round, when, from their appearance and strong flight, they may easily be mistaken for a flock of black ducks.

The stomach of the specimen sent contained weeds, seeds of water-plants, and insects.

185. *PODICEPS MINOR* (Lath.). Little Grebe.

Male and female. Iris lightish brown ; upper mandible dark brown, except the margins, which (with the under mandible) are

yellowish green ; gape green ; tarsi and feet dull dark green on the inner surfaces, black on the outer.

These Grebes are common in the lagoons, and are occasionally found in the rocky streams inland ; they are almost always in pairs, and appear to be somewhat pugnacious and fond of chasing each other about. The stomachs of three which I shot all contained insects, but no signs of fish, although the waters were swarming with them.

[The specimens sent by Mr. Ayres do not appear in any respect to differ from those found in Great Britain.—J. H. G.]

186. *QUERQUEDULA HOTTENTOTTA*, Smith. Hottentot Teal.

Male. Iris dark brown ; bill, upper mandible black, except the sides and base, which are blue, under mandible bluish ; tarsi and feet ash-colour.

These birds occur singly, or at most in pairs.

187. *PHALACROCORAX AFRICANUS* (Gmel.). Long-tailed Cormorant.

Male. Iris scarlet ; upper mandible dark brown, except the margins, which are brownish yellow, as is the under mandible also ; tarsi and feet black.

This species frequents the freshwater lagoons on the coast. Its flight is rapid and strong. When in the water it swims extremely low, scarcely any part of its back being then visible. Both in the air and on the water it much resembles the Anhinga (*Plotus levillantii*) in appearance. It is a very superior diver, and feeds entirely on fish : if disturbed, instead of diving, it generally seeks safety on the wing. It is solitary in its habits, and, like the Anhinga, is particularly fond of sunning itself with outstretched wings on some clump of rushes.

The following additional notes refer to species included in my former lists.

FALCO BIARMICUS (Temm.). Latakoo Falcon.

Male and female. Irides dark brown ; bill dark bluish ash-colour in the centre, black at the tip, and yellowish at the base ; cere and eyelids yellow ; tarsi and feet yellow. The male weighed 1 lb. 4 oz., the female 1 lb. 12 oz.

One cold, bleak, windy day in June my brother and I were shooting, when a Partridge rose to me, which I wounded, and which flew perhaps two hundred yards and then fell.

This pair of Falcons, which we had noticed soaring about for some time, immediately darted on the wounded bird ; my brother easily stalked them, and with a double shot killed the pair. Although scarcely half a minute had elapsed since the Partridge fell, one of the Falcons had already eaten its head off.

These Falcons are very rare in our neighbourhood. Their flight is excessively rapid when occasion requires ; but at other times they appear generally to soar easily and quietly about, apparently well scanning the ground over which they pass.

ASTUR MELANOLEUCUS (Smith). Black and White Goshawk.

It appears to me that these Hawks are more numerous here in the summer months, from November to February or March, than they are in winter.

ACCIPITER TACHIRO (Daud.). Tachiro Hawk.

Female assuming the adult dress ; iris light yellow.

One of these birds a short time since suddenly emerged from the bush and made a swoop amongst a lot of our chickens ; having failed in striking one, the chickens instantly ran to the cover of some rough weeds and grass, when the Hawk proceeded to hunt them on foot, and I put it up within five yards of me while so doing, and ultimately shot it.

NECTARINIA AFRA (Linn.). Greater Double-collared Sun-bird.

Female. Iris dark brown ; bill black ; tarsi and feet dull brown.

This species is not found immediately on the coast, its range commencing about ten miles inland.

PARUS NIGER (Vieill.). Black and White Tit.

I discovered a nest of these birds containing one egg and four callow young. The old bird had evidently taken possession of a deserted Woodpecker's nest. The hole was in a perpendicular and decayed bough of a large tree, about twenty feet from the ground ; it was about a foot in depth, and there was a very little fine dry grass at the bottom, on which the egg and young birds were placed. I was obliged to cut and break the front of the bough to get at the contents of the nest ; and the old birds showed their

dislike to my proceedings by their chattering cries and uneasy manner. On leaving the nest I repaired the hole as well as I could, and left the little ones safe inside; but passing the place in about a week, I again climbed the tree and found the nest cold and deserted.

MOTACILLA CAPENSIS (Linn.). Cape of Good Hope Wagtail.

This is the most common of the Wagtails in Natal. It will frequently for a length of time follow a horse or ox whilst grazing, running actively along the ground and catching small insects which are thus disturbed; it also appears to find its food abundant in cattle pens and in muddy streams. Its flight is dipping, like that of the Wagtail in England.

PLATYSTEIRA PRIRIT (Vieill.). Pririt Flycatcher.

Male. Iris bright reddish yellow; bill black; tarsi and feet black.

These Flycatchers frequent the dense bush. Their flight is weak. They are restless in their habits, constantly flitting and hopping about in search of small slow-flying soft insects, which they take on the wing. Their note is harsh and grating to the ear: more than two are seldom seen together. They are found here all the year round.

DICRURUS MUSICUS (Vieill.). Musical Drongo.

I found a nest of these birds built on a horizontal bough of an acacia overhanging a pool of water, and about twenty feet above it. I sent a Caffre boy up the tree to saw the bough off. While he was thus engaged, the old birds attacked him furiously, making repeated swoops and feints at his head, and uttering at the same time loud notes of anger.

ESTRELLDA ASTRILD (Linn.). Waxbill Finch.

I found several nests of these birds last season, all built upon the ground, generally in some convenient indentation sheltered by a clump of grass. The little elongated entrance of the nest is placed rather forwards, with the end of it touching the ground. On the top of the nest there is a sort of chamber, in which, the Caffres assure me, the male bird roosts at night during the incubation of the female.

COLIUS STRIATUS (Gmel.). Striated Coly.

These birds appear to have the habit of constantly adding fresh and green leaves to the inner surface of their nests. Is a certain amount of dampness necessary for their eggs during incubation?

TOCCUS MELANOLEUCUS (Licht.). Crowned Hornbill.

Male. Bill dull red; tarsi and feet black.

I shot this Hornbill whilst in the act of swallowing a large locust which it had taken from the bough of a low bush. This bird did not appear to throw the head back so much as I have noticed that some other species do. Its stomach was full of locusts and caterpillars.

These Hornbills are generally found in companies of from ten to twenty; they mostly frequent the coast districts, but occasionally during the winter months they wander more inland.

[This species is the *Calao couronné* of Levaillant and the *Buceros coronatus* of Shaw, but not of Boddaert, as erroneously cited by me in 'The Ibis,' vol. iii. p. 133, the latter being a synonym of an oriental species, *Buceros monoceros* of Shaw.—J. H. G.]

DENDROMUS SMITHII (Malh.). Smith's Woodpecker.

[Since writing the remarks on this Woodpecker, published in 'The Ibis,' vol. iv. p. 38, I have had the opportunity of consulting M. Malherbe's article on this species in his magnificent monograph of the *Picidæ*, p. 154, and I observe that the difference between Mr. Swainson's description of the female of his *Dendromus chrysurus* and the females sent from Natal is there accounted for in the following terms:—"As for the description which Swainson gives of the female, it only applies to a young female which has the forehead and vertex black, without the spots, which extend with age, being as yet distinguishable; which also sometimes happens in other species of the same group."

M. Malherbe states, however, that he has never himself met with a West-African specimen of this Woodpecker.—J. H. G.]

BUPHUS COMATUS (Pall.). Squacco Dwarf-Heron.

Female. Iris light yellow; bill, upper mandible very dark brown, except the margins, which (with the under mandible) are yellowish; tarsi and feet light yellowish green.

These birds are not common here; they inhabit the marshes

and lagoons on the coast, and occasionally one strays inland. They appear to feed on insects. Their flight is heavy, and against a strong wind they are able to make but little headway.

PÆCILONETTA ERYTHORHYNCHA (Gmel.). Red-billed Duck.

Female. Iris dark brown; ridge of the upper mandible dark brown; sides and base of the upper mandible, and also the lower mandible pale or flesh-colour; tarsi and feet dark ash-colour; webs nearly black.

These Ducks inhabit the lagoons, and are not very common; they are less shy than most other wild-fowl here. The few that I have seen have been either single or in pairs.

[I regret to find that I have committed the error of enumerating this species twice, viz. as No. 62 in 'The Ibis,' vol. i. p. 251, and as No. 142 in vol. iii. p. 134.—J. H. G.]

DENDROCYGNA VIDUATA (Linn.). White-masked Duck.

Male. Iris dark brown; bill black; tarsi and feet bluish ash-colour.

I found a flight of about a dozen of these Ducks in a lagoon near the mouth of the River Umlass in the month of June. They were very wild, but after some trouble I got a long shot at them with one of Eley's cartridges, and succeeded in bagging three. They all varied in size and plumage, the one sent being the largest and handsomest. When standing on a mud-bank, in consequence of their rather long legs and necks they looked more like small geese than ducks. In flight also they much resembled Geese; there was an evident inclination to form a regular figure; and when they flew round near where I was concealed, they constantly uttered a sort of whistling cackle.

XIX.—*Some Remarks on the Genus Balæniceps*. By Dr. J.

REINHARDT, Professor at the Royal Museum of Copenhagen, Foreign Member Z.S.L., &c., &c.*

OPINIONS pretty much at variance respecting the affinities of this genus have been propounded. Not to mention that Gould, when

* Translated from the 'Transactions' of the Royal Danish Scientific Society for April 1861, pp. 135-154.



J Jennens, lith.

M & N. Haubart, Imp^r.

PINDALUS RUFICAPILLUS.

